(b) The Corporation has been incurring losses mainly due to inadequate and imbalanced order book, excess manpower, high overheads, serious liquidity problem, shortage of power, poor work culture, old machinery and heavy outstanding from the customers etc. The order book position has, however, improved recently.

(c) Government have taken various steps to curtail losses in HEC which include providing plan and non-plan funds and guarantee for increase in cash credit limit with the banks to obviate the present liquidity crunch and providing funds for implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme to rationalise the excess manpower.

Complaints against "Trade Marks" Registry, Okhla, New Delhi

2155. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently received any complaints against some senior examiners of Trade Marks Registry, Okhla, New Delhi regarding malpractices, in the allotment of Trade Marks etc; and

(b) if so, the details of the complaints and the action taken, if any, thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) A complaint was received against the Senior Examiner of Trade Marks of the Trade Marks Registry, New Delhi in connection with the allotment of a trade mark "Bhatakchhap". The allegations, on examination, were not established.

Directorate General of Technical Development

2156. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the work-load of the staff and officers in his Ministry particualrly in the Directorate General of Technical Development, in view of the announcement of the New Liberalised Industrial Policy;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) how Government propose to utilise the staff and the Officers rendered surplus or whose work-load has been considerably reduced; and

(d) whether there is any proposal of appointing a task force to examine this issue threadbare in order to achieve the objective of maximising economic benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (d) The Government's recent economic initiatives in the form of major industrial, fiscal and trade liberalisations have led to revised perceptions about the role, functions and organisational structure of several Ministries/Departments/Oranisations. Consequently, it may be necessary to restructure several of these, including the Directorate General of Technical Development. Government have not taken any final decision in this regard. However, in respect of Department of Industrial Development (proper), a preliminary assessment of work local has been carried out. As a result of this exercise, the work in the Department has been reorganised. This reorganisation has inter-alia resulted in a fair number of posts becoming surplus. The adjustment of surplus is by redeployment, non-filling up of vacancies and by adjustment against existing vacancies within the revised strength.

Use of blue asbestos in small scale sector in India

2157. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cancer causing blue asbestos, banned in most parts of the world, is still being used unchecked in some small scale sectors in India, according to report presented at a Texicology Congress held in New Delhi on the 27th November, 1991;

(b) if so, the reasons for not banning its use; and